

# Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 22

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NUMBER 8

## ROANOKE, FIRST, OBSERVES FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

On September 16, 1923, several people met in the Council Room of the City Hall, Roanoke, Alabama, for the purpose of organizing a church in the growing city. Rev. George D. Hunt made an impressive talk on the five Cardinal Principles of the Christian Church. Nine members were enrolled and a prospective list of 8 people was compiled. They elected Mrs. E. M. Hood as secretary and C. H. Russell as deacon. J. H. Crisler became Sunday School superintendent and V. E. Kitchens, secretary. Rev. E. M. Carter spoke on the "great need of a Christian Church in Roanoke." So began the First Church, Roanoke, Alabama.

On September 16, 1973, the church gathered with a number of visitors, worshipped, honored Mrs. E. M. Hood, the only living charter member, Charlie J. Hester, a long-time member, and Rev. Olin Sheppard, pastor of the church for 25 years. Rev. Joe A. French is the present pastor. Lunch was served in Fellowship Hall and several people reminisced to the delight of all.

The following speakers were heard during the week of celebration:

Sunday, "Renewal in First Church, Roanoke" — W. J. Andes

Sunday, "Faithful unto Death" — Olin Sheppard

Monday, "Where Is the Lamb?" — L. E. Armstrong

Tuesday, "Belonging to the Church" — G. B. Ledbetter

Wednesday, "Cost and Joy of Discipleship" — H. N. Auler Jr.

Thursday, "Samaria a Hard Place" — E. Terry Clark

Friday, "He Calls Us Into His Church" — L. Floyd Carmack



## New Chairperson For Lay Life & Work

We extend congratulations to Franklin Thomas on his election as chairman of the Council for Lay Life and Work. Mr. Thomas is a member of Central Congregational Church in Atlanta, president of the National Alumni Association of Talladega College, and personnel director for the City of Atlanta. Mr. Thomas is a 1946 graduate of Talladega and is chairman of the Southeast Conference Planning Committee for 17-76 and vice-moderator of the Southeast Conference.

The following letter, written by Franklin Thomas for Lay Life & Work Council members and staff following his election, gives an insight into the kind of person he is and his view of the work and spirit of the lay life and work segment of the United Church of Christ.

Dear Friends:

THANK YOU! Thank you for the  
(Continued on Page 3)

## Board Of Directors Has Fall Meeting

The Board of Directors of Southeast Conference met September 17, 1973, at Central Church, Atlanta. Wallace Boothby, moderator, presided. W. T. Scott Jr. opened the Word. Rev. and Mrs. John Crozier brought greetings from India. K. C. Johnson presented "Time to Rejoice."

Actions of the Board included:

1. Received Financial Statement. OCWM giving is slightly ahead of 1972.

2. Greetings to: Mrs. Margaret Haywood, Moderator of General Synod, speaker at First Church, Montgomery, on November 4, 1973; Lawrence N. Strunk, new Executive Director of Uplands at Pleasant Hill; and to H. Wayne Peck, now Director of Development; Rufus Obrecht, upon his illness; W. R. Green, upon the death of his father; and to Mrs. Challis Rhodes, upon the death of her husband.

3. The Annual Meeting of Southeast Conference to be at Talladega College, June 8 and 9, 1974.

4. Concurred in the vote of Southern Alabama Council to call an Area Minister.

5. Asked Franklin Thomas and a small committee to do pre-campaign planning for 17-76 Achievement Fund Campaign.

6. Approved plans made by Program Planners at Berry College, August 20-22, 1973.

7. Set up Task Forces on Evangelism, Growth Centers in Conference Area, and appointed other committees.

8. Arranged for training of leaders in Identity Program and Local Church Project at Camp Calvin, November 9-11, 1973.

## CALENDAR OF CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

### Associations:

Sept. 29 — Ala-Tenn., First Church, Nashville

Oct. 6 — N. Ala., Mt. Lebanon Ch., Steele, Ala.

Oct. 10 — E. Ala., Lanett Church

Oct. 11 — E. Ala., LaGrange United Church

Oct. 20 — S. Ala., Blackwood Church

Oct. 21 — Central Ala., Mt. Olive Church, Tallassee

Oct. 27-28 — Ga.-S. C., First Church, Savannah

### Other Events:

Oct. 14 — Laity Sunday

Oct. 15 — East Ala. Ministers' Assoc., Hall's Cafe, Lanett, Ala.

Oct. 15-16 — Ga. Interchurch Association, Callaway Gardens

Oct. 19 — Executive Comm., Uplands, at Pleasant Hill, Tenn.

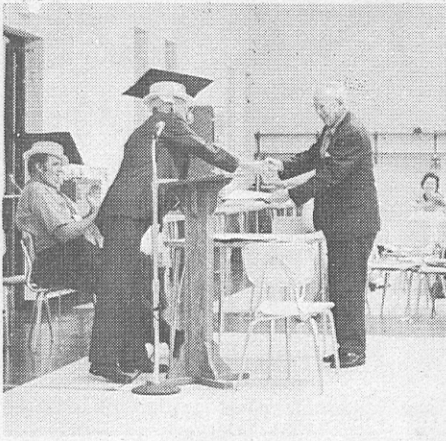
Oct. 21 — 11 A. M. Celebration of 45th Ordination Anniversary of Joe A. French, Staley Hunt, and 39th Ord. Anniv. of W. M. Stevens, at First Church, Roanoke

Oct. 23-25 — John De Boer of BHM visits Chattanooga First Church, Church of Savior, Knoxville, and Robbins Par.

Oct. 28 — Reformation & Youth Sunday



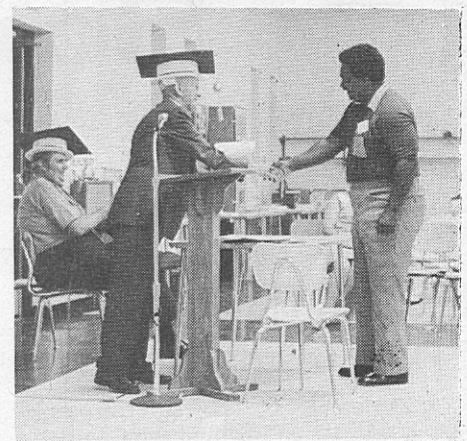
# Degrees Awarded At Southeast Conference



JOE A. FRENCH



MRS. LOIS HARRY



GEORGE C. HAWKINS

## NEWS ITEMS

Dr. Frank McCook, Department of Religion at LaGrange College, conducted an illustrated series on "Palestine: The Land and Its History" at the Congregational Christian Church, Lanett, Alabama, Sept. 16-20, 1973. Rev. Harold Auler is pastor.

The Men's Fellowship of the Lanett Church visited the West Point Dam Project, September 24, 1973. The project, when completed, will provide recreation for millions of people each year. Several of our churches are near the project.

The Southern Alabama Area Council held a Youth Camp at Camp Timpoochee in Florida on September 28-30, 1973. The theme of the camp was: "Evangelism and Jesus Christ." Advance registrations indicated a good attendance.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Edith Marian Fidler and William Carlton Shaffer, who were married in the Central Congregational Church garden in Atlanta, Ga., August 31, 1973. Pastor George Fidler, father of the bride, performed the ceremony.

The Brookmeade Congregational Church of Nashville, Tennessee, has decided to use worship coordinators for services of worship and to divide the other pastoral tasks among the members of the church during the interim period when the church has no pastor. Rev. Don Orander has just gone from the church to Indiana. The church is spending a while studying the ministry of the church. The church has divided itself into Diakonia Groups. Thus every member will have a part in the total ministry of the church.

Over 75 people greeted the Oranders at the last service they had at the Brookmeade

One of the joyful and humorous occasions at a meeting of the Southeast Conference is the awarding of "degrees" by "Ole Thermometer U." Dean Warren Blankenhorn presents the candidates to President A. R. Van Cleave. On June 16, 1973, the following degrees were awarded (Left to Right):

"Doctor of Duration" to Rev. Joe A. French

"Doctor of Laying It on the Line," to Mrs. Lois Harry

"Doctor of Cow-Pasture Pool" to Rev. George C. Hawkins.

## PLEASANT HILL HAD THE IDEA FIRST

The three "R's" in which the Cumberland Plateau area around Crossville has been making amazing progress during recent years have been recreation, relaxation and retirement living.

The dramatic developments, the heavy investments, the extensive boundaries and the well-publicized programs of such mammoth undertakings as Firestone's 7,000-acre recreation complex, the General Development Corp.'s 20,000-acre holdings, Fairfield Glade, Renegade Resort, Tansi Village, Cumberland Mountain Retreat, Campout U. S. A., Holiday Hills and numerous others can be cited.

Thoughts of these tend to obscure the little mountain village near Crossville where the whole idea of relaxation and retirement living on the plateau may have originated.

The little community of Pleasant Hill, 10  
(Continued on Page 4)

Church, on Sept. 9, 1973. The church had a fellowship meal together and enjoyed the day sharing the last moments with the Oranders.

## New Moderator Of S. E. Conference — Wallace J. Boothby Jr.

Although he was born in Portland, Oregon, Wallace J. Boothby Jr., the newly elected moderator of the Conference has lived in Birmingham since he was a small child.

Wallace was graduated from Marion Institute and Auburn University and served in the armed forces in Okinawa.

Wallace's father, Mr. Wallace Johnson Boothby Sr., was chairman of the building committee for Pilgrim Church and was responsible almost single-handedly for the building on Eighth Avenue North.

Mr. Boothby Sr. owned the Boothby Realty Company and Wallace joined his father in this company, specializing in apartment rentals. Since his father's death in 1962, Wallace has continued the business very successfully.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Boothby Sr. were very active in Pilgrim Church affairs and Wallace's mother still continues her interest although she is confined to a wheel chair.

Wallace is married to the former Mary Carolyn Gibbs, a charming woman, who is very active and interested in community and civic groups as well as in Pilgrim Church. Their three children are Johnson, Elbert, and Mary Katherine.

He is well known in his profession nationally and he and Mary Carolyn have traveled widely. In 1970 he was honored by being chosen as Alabama Realtor of the Year, based on realtor spirit with regard to the organization's code of ethics, civic activity, business accomplishments and activities on the local, state and national scene. He has served as president of the Birmingham Realtors Association besides holding a number of other local and state offices.

Wallace has served as moderator of Pilgrim Church and presently is a member of the Church Council.



## UCY Of Langdale Church Has Work Project



In mid-July, the U. C. Y. of the Langdale Congregational Christian Church, U. C. C., sponsored a work project to raise funds for UCY activities. Working through a summer shower and mid-afternoon heat, the youth weeded the front garden of the parsonage, which needed a great deal of attention. The project began at 10:00 in the morning and proceeded through 3:00 in the afternoon.

(Continued from Page 1)

confidence you have placed in me. Thank you for designating me leader of a group which really needs no leader because of its ongoing tradition of openness, shared responsibility and style of being mutually supportive to each other. Thank you for the high privilege of following in the tradition of Cecilia Newbold, Bob Shaffer, Don Wilder, and Laconia Wilson!

**PRAY FOR ME!** Pray for me to overcome my unworthiness to receive such a blessing. Pray for me to find the humility and resourcefulness to keep lay leadership moving forward as I seek to be "His Servant in the Service of Others." Pray for me to help our Council, our church and all human kind to choose life, to be the Good News and to do the Master's will!

**GOD BLESS YOU!** God bless you for what you have already contributed to my own personal and professional growth and development. God bless you for your talents and gifts already shared so generously within our United Church of Christ and beyond. God bless you for what I know you will do in the future along with Rachael Guth (co-chairperson), Bill Edge (vice-chairperson), Wilys Claire Nelson (secretary), Hart Helmich, and me to keep Lay Life and Work always viable and meaningful throughout our individual lives and the total life of the church!

Franklin W. Thomas

**Karlton C. Johnson**, Regional Secretary of the Stewardship Council, was guest preacher at First Church, Macon, on September 23, and at First Church, Crossville, on September 30.

He is also a Resource Leader at the Association meetings this fall.

## YOUTH WEEK THEME: TRUST US

"Trust is that special quality that enables you to freely place yourself, your life, in the hands of the Spirit and others." So says the order blank of the 1973 Youth Week materials, on the theme "Trust Us." Youth Week this year will be October 28-November 4. Your church may wish to celebrate Youth Sunday on October 28 or, if that date is tied up, at a later time.

Be sure to order your Youth Week materials now to be certain you have them. The complete youth packet, at \$2.25, may be ordered from:

Division of Youth Activities  
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20005

Also available are a 35 mm slide at \$2.00 in case your community youth would like to do a united public relations campaign, and repro proofs of the Youth Week poster at 25c each.

"A sense of trust is not something that just happens; trust must be worked at, developed." Youth of our Conference, here is your work.

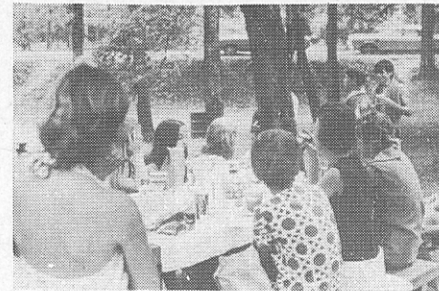
## REV. FREDERICK MEYER HAS BUSY RETIREMENT

Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, who retired as pastor of Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, on January 1, 1972, has been busy since that time serving interim pastorates. During 1972, Rev. Mr. Meyer served for five months at the Congregational Church of Boca Raton, Fla. On March 15, 1973, he began another interim pastorate at the Congregational Church of Falcon Heights, Minnesota, a suburb of St. Paul. He concluded that work on September 1 and returned with Mrs. Meyer to their home in Atlanta.

The Meyers had expected to begin a fairly long period of "taking it easy" after their service in St. Paul, but just before it was over a call came from the Congregational Church of Westfield, New Jersey, for him to take another interim pastorate. The former pastor there, Rev. LeRoy Stanford, passed away suddenly with a heart attack in July. So, Mr. Meyer is now scheduled to begin his service at Westfield on Oct. 15 and will probably continue there at least until June 1974.

Since Westfield is a suburb of New York City and since Mr. Meyer served for 15 years in another suburb on Long Island, Rockville Center, there will be opportunity to visit many old friends there. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer expect to get away occasionally for short visits with their son and his wife and their grandson in Cambridge, Mass.

## H. B. Toll Cluster Group Holds Initial Activity



The H. B. TOLL CLUSTER GROUP held its initial activity on July 21, at Liberty Bell Park in Pine Mountain, Ga. In attendance were 17 young people and 7 adults from the Pine Mountain, Langdale, and Lanett United Churches.

The H. B. TOLL CLUSTER GROUP is composed of the UCY's from the Huguley, Bethel, Todd, Oak Grove, Langdale, and Lanett United Churches. Initially conceptualized by J. K. Murphy, Coordinator of the Commission on Christian Education for the Southeast Conference, the cluster group idea aims at providing corporate youth activities with a denominational as well as religious emphasis for the more widely scattered and smaller churches of the Southeast Conference. Smaller churches, with smaller UCY's are organized in "clusters" for more functional church activities.

One program is planned for each month, with each church assuming responsibility on a rotation basis. Hopefully, such organization will give birth to an area youth newsletter and more ties.

The next activity is an outing to Stone Mountain, planned by the Langdale Church.

Stephen C. Gray,  
Pastor at Langdale

## THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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## Note From Pastor To First Church Nashville

The religious practice we call Confirmation has deep roots in the human experience and the history of religion. Every human society on record has some method (more or less complex) which marked the arrival of a young person to adulthood. In most societies (especially ancient ones) the puberty rites were deeply religious in nature. Especially is that true in our Judaistic — Old Testament roots. At age 13 the very religious ceremony called "Bar Mitzvah" heralded the entrance of the young Jew into the adult religious community. The actual ceremony was a recognition of achievement. The child became an adult through intellectual and spiritual preparation. The parallel Christian tradition of Confirmation applies the same underlying assumption. "Bring up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it." The rite of Confirmation is practiced only when children are ready to enter the full adult religious fellowship we call the church. A church which is a good steward of the young will have prepared children through its religious education processes from the time when the ripening of religious consciousness can be brought to fruition by intensive care. Following such intensive care the young person standing on the threshold of adulthood must make his choice to follow the faith of his fathers or not. The rite of Confirmation then becomes a celebration of the young person's free choice to identify with Christ's body on earth — the church.

In a few weeks the pastor will be contacting several families who have children who appear eligible for confirmation. Any child above the 6th grade in school would generally be considered eligible. We will plan together with those involved a year of "intensive care" or Confirmation studies. A year hence we hope to celebrate together the decision of several young persons to commit their lives to Christ's church. Pray for the success of this most important enterprise.

Shalom,  
Allen B. Hollis Jr.

The Rev. Miss Annie Campbell is now on the staff of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Winter Park, Florida. She is serving as Visitation Minister.

Miss Campbell retired four years ago, after a great ministry in the Robbins Parish in Tennessee.

## Moderator To Be In Southeast Conference Church



Mrs. Margaret Haywood, Moderator of the United Church of Christ, will be the featured speaker for the Women's Day services at First Congregational Church, Montgomery, Alabama, on Sunday, November 4, 1973, 11:00 a. m.

First Church extends a special invitation to the churches of the Southeast Conference to be present when Mrs. Haywood speaks in Montgomery. First Church is located on the corner of Union and Hall Streets, downtown Montgomery.

Something of a record is reached with the election of Margaret Haywood, Washington, D. C., as moderator of the United Church of Christ. She is the first woman, the first black woman, and first woman judge to be so honored. Judge Haywood has been serving as a member of the UCC Executive Council and served as a District of Columbia Councilwoman, first appointed by President Johnson in 1967. In 1972 President Nixon nominated her as an associate justice of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

## A NEW SIGN FOR YOUR CHURCH?

Any churches interested in erecting outdoor bulletin boards, which are effective in announcing times of worship services, special meetings, etc.; road signs that tell passersby that there is a friendly church nearby where a sincere welcome awaits them, or highway signs, can write to: Cokesbury, Regional Service Center, 201 Eighth Ave., So., Nashville, Tenn. 37202 — and they will be glad to send you their brochure giving illustrations, prices, etc.

## PLEASANT HILL

(Continued from Page 2)

miles west of Crossville just off U. S. 70-S, has been attracting retirees from a number of other states for 15 or 20 years. Presently living at Pleasant Hill are 127 retirees from 20 states and four foreign countries. The village has 45 individual retirement homes and 31 apartments.

Uplands differs from all the others in a number of significant ways. Primarily, it is noncommercial. It does not operate with the idea of making profits for any individual or group or firm — or church.

In another rather remarkable way, the community is different from most other retirement villages. In many others, the monotonous sameness of residential design gets a bit depressing. At Uplands, no two homes are alike.

### A DREAM

The retirement center at Uplands began as an idea, a part of the dream of Dr. May Cravath Wharton, the "doctor woman of the Cumberlands," who was a founder — along with Miss Elizabeth Fletcher and Miss Alice Adshead — of the small general hospital known as Uplands Cumberland Mountain Sanatorium. The hospital, now the huge and modern Cumberland Medical Center, has been moved to Crossville, but a 52-bed nursing home is operated at Pleasant Hill and serves as a medical facility for the retirement village.

Uplands Retirement Center will continue its development in a master plan for the village, including the addition of such facilities as a nine-hole golf course alongside one of the lakes on the 500-acre property.

Uplands has not tried and will not try to pressure-sell its facilities, such as the large lots for retirement homes or the care available in the nursing home. "We do intend, though," says H. Wayne Peck, "to do a bit more about making the public aware of these facilities."

To that end, Peck moves into another post with Uplands. The Rev. Lawrence Strunk now becomes administrator of the nursing home and director of the retirement center. Peck will begin a job in which he will specialize in promotional activities, public relations and fund raising for Uplands' expansion plans. He will be contacting churches of his denomination in the 11 states of this region.

A native of Maryland and a 1951 graduate of Eden Theological Seminary at St. Louis, Peck was in pastoral work for some 13 years or more before becoming executive director at Uplands eight years ago. He has seen the annual budget for the nursing home increase from \$181,000 to \$397,000 in that time, the staff grow from 45 to 68, and the property value increase from \$718,000 to \$1,432,000.

By Mouzon Peters,  
Chattanooga Times Tristate  
Editor



# Family Thank Offering Projects For 1973

IN OUR HOMES  
SYMBOLS OF  
Thankfulness  
IN OUR CHURCH  
symbols of  
New Life

Family Thank Offering projects to which our 1973 gifts will go are:

## BOARD FOR WORLD MINISTRIES:

Education to Enable Freedom:

Angola and Togo \$90,000

## BOARD FOR HOMELAND MINISTRIES:

Ministry in Appalachia \$90,000

Through CORA (Commission on Religion in Appalachia), Consumer Health Advocacy Program, college scholarships, and similar programs

## COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION

Hunger in America through program resources, training hunger-action teams, rallying community support to end hunger

(These were selected from projects submitted by the Instrumentalities)

## SUGGESTIONS FOR INGATHERING SERVICE

It is important that the Family Thank Offering be dedicated in a service of worship and praise to God. Suggestions for such a service are given in WITH HEART — WITH MIND.

It is also important that the families are aware of the needs being met by their gifts. Information for talks (preferably by three people) on these projects is also in WITH HEART — WITH MIND.

This may be a part of a regular Sunday morning worship service, at a special family night program, or combined with Laity Sunday.

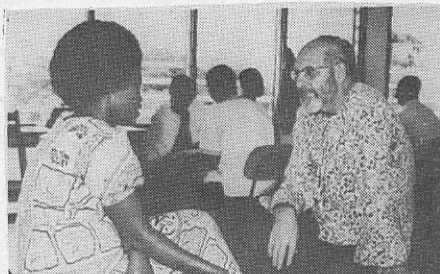
Some churches may wish to dedicate these gifts on Thanksgiving Sunday and also receive an offering for American Indians on that day — November 18.

## RESOURCES

1. The primary resource for the Family Thank Offering dedication service is WITH HEART — WITH MIND FOR 1973. This was in the fall packet of LAITY RESOURCES for 1972-73. It may be ordered free from Central Distribution Service, Box 7286, St. Louis, Mo. 63177. This contains not only a suggested dedication service but also information needed for talks about the three projects to which the money is to go.

2. CORA (Commission on Religion in

# Family Advise And Counseling Centre



Family Advise and Family Counseling course. Rev. Dr. Gerald Jud chats with Ghanaian worker at opening of new Family Advise and Counseling Centre in Ho, Ghana.

Three new Family Advise (sic) and Counseling Centres are opening this year in Ghana as a result of efforts made by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church there. The centres are directly sponsored by the Christian Council of Ghana, to whom the E. P. Church, long-supported by the United Church Board for World Ministries, has seconded the Rev. F. H. Buatsi to serve as full-time regional coordinator of the centres.

The first centre, located in Ho, where the E. P. Church has its headquarters, opened with impressive ceremonies in February. Present for the official opening were Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Jud. Dr. Jud is on the staff of our United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. While in Ghana, Dr. and Mrs. Jud led a refresher course for regional family advisors.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church has developed a strong program of family counseling and family planning through its Committee on Christian Marriage and Family Life, which was developed with the help of UCBWM missionary, Mrs. Vivian Hazel. The new counseling centres will be staffed by family-planning field workers, nurses, doctors, and counselors.

Despite objections to certain methods of family planning, Roman Catholic leaders in Ghana are supporting the program, for they are in full agreement with the primary objective: to promote happier, healthier, Christian families. In addition to centres started in 1973 in Ho, Hohoe, and Keta, there are plans to open three more centres in 1974.

Appalachia), 864 Weisgarber Rd., Knoxville, Tenn. 37919, Telephone Area 615, No. 584-6133, will provide you with literature about their work. A filmstrip with cassette tape "CORA: Our Christian Commitment in Appalachia", may be purchased for \$7.50. The 30 minute CBS 30 mm color film on Appalachia may be rented for \$15.00.

# TRAINED LEADERS TO HELP LOCAL CHURCHES

The Council for Lay Life and Work was testing the following thesis in a test project: The skillful consultant, because he-she is coming to a church from the outside, can help it make those changes necessary to turn it to hope, vitality and mission in ways not readily open to local leadership alone.

The project was tested in twelve conferences between June, 1972, and June, 1973. The twelve conferences recruited 68 persons to be trained as consultants and 56 churches in which the consultants worked in teams of two and three.

In those churches which were not doing effective planning, the consultants helped the churches sense a new power for setting goals and accomplishing them. Leadership was given new skill in planning and follow-through.

Participants reported that working with outside consultants built enthusiasm, provided motivation to act, and brought forth new commitment. New leadership potential emerged.

Local churches felt that their ties with the United Church of Christ were strengthened. Some of them marveled that their conferences and national agency cared enough to get involved in this very specific and helpful way.

Six teams of three people each will be trained at Camp Calvin, near Atlanta, Ga., November 9-11, 1973, to do this local church consultation.

Included in the training will be the Identity Program developed by the Southeast Conference. Each of the three areas of the conference will have two teams to plan with local churches their future program and mission.

Our thanks to the Council for Lay Life and Work for making this possible.

# Elon Home For Children Wants Coupons

Many things needed by a family of children can be obtained with trading stamps and coupons. At the Elon Home for Children at Elon College, N. C., luggage and many small necessities and luxuries for the children can be obtained with trading stamps. They have even been used to get a "bus wagon" and a pickup truck. The Home asks us to send any kind of stamps we have, for all can be used. Coupons are used to acquire kitchen utensils and tableware. Betty Crocker, Red Scissors, Bonus Gifts, and cigarette coupons will be most welcome and helpful at the Home.



## BONDING FOR LOCAL CHURCHES OFFERED

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries will offer low cost bonding protection to United Church of Christ conferences and congregations which will cover all persons who handle their money.

"The advantage of the blanket plan," according to UCBHM head, Rev. Dr. Howard E. Spragg, "is that any number of employees or volunteers can be bonded against loss on a graduated scale for as little as \$4 annually for a congregation with a budget of less than \$5,000 up to \$19 for congregations with incomes of over \$100,000."

In order to qualify for this low bonding premium rate, at least 50 percent of the churches in the UCC must be enrolled. If more than 50 percent enroll, the premium may go lower still, Dr. Spragg said.

A description of the coverage available and the premiums required follows:

### COMMERCIAL BLANKET BOND

Limit of Liability — \$50,000 per loss

Description of Coverage — Protects the church against dishonest acts of church officials, employees, etc., whether acting alone or in collusion with others.

Premium —

Annual Revenue	Per Loss Deductible	Annual Premium
\$5,000 or under	None	\$4.00
5,000-15,000	50.	5.00
15,000-25,000	100.	8.00

## U. C. C. Membership Drops

The United Church of Christ experienced a 1.7 percent drop in membership in 1972 and a 1.6 percent drop in 1971, according to the Rev. Joseph H. Evans, secretary of the denomination.

This loss of membership is similar to that of five other major Protestant denominations, according to the "Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches for 1973," to be released in May.

The current official UCC membership figure, according to Mr. Evans, is 1,895,016, a loss of 33,658 from the 1971 figure of 1,928,674. There are 6,635 churches and 9,480 ordained ministers currently in the United Church of Christ.

Roughly 62.4 percent of the U. S. population are members of churches. This is a slight decrease from 63.2 percent in the previous year. While the percentage is smaller, the actual figures reflect a gain of 343,689. The membership gain has not kept pace with U. S. population growth.

The largest church in the U. S. remains the Roman Catholic church, with 48,390,990 members and a 4 percent gain in 1971. The second largest church, the Southern Baptist Convention, showed a 1.7 percent gain with a new membership total of 11,824,676. The third largest church is the United Methodist Church, which had a 1.5 percent decline and has a new total of 10,671,774.

25,000-50,000	150.	11.00
50,000-100,000	200.	14.00
Over \$100,000	250.	19.00

Other Requirements — A brief audit form must be completed annually by either the church pastor or the treasurer.

If any of our churches are interested, they might contact the Southeast Conference office.

## Sheares Named For Church Life And Leadership Office

The Rev. Reuben A. Sheares II of Chicago will become executive director of the new Office of Church Life and Leadership with headquarters in New York, starting December 1.

As director of the United Church of Christ agency, Mr. Sheares will develop and carry out experimental programs for the training of church leaders and will coordinate national and regional theological education and training projects. The emphasis will be on strengthening the local church.

In addition to its new directions, the Office of Church Life and Leadership will take over the present responsibilities of the Council for Church and Ministry, including pastoral relations and job placement of church professionals; the Council for Lay Life and Work, which conducts programs for lay men and women; the Committee on Theological Education; the Theological Commission and the Commission on Worship.

Born in Charleston, S. C. in 1933, Reuben Sheares was graduated from Talladega (Ala.) College in 1955 and from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, N. Y. in 1959. He is completing work on his doctorate at Chicago Theological Seminary.

He is married to the former Ora Myles of West Monroe, La. The Sheares have three sons, Reuben III, Bradley, and Craig.

## Labor Day Interpreted

Labor Day weekend is a holiday weekend intended to give recognition to the working force in America that makes the things and provides the services for all. A salute and a hearty THANK YOU to all who toil in all kinds of circumstances for the benefit of all.

In the Bible we read these words addressed to a young preacher named Timothy but applicable to all of us who see in our vocation the place where God has us right now. It may change and it may not and no matter what has taken place in the past or what our aspirations are for the future, what we are doing right now is what counts. This then is the word of the hour:

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

A person may not like a particular job or it may be that the circumstances are unsatisfactory, or the boss or foreman make things very difficult. On the other hand, others find working conditions right and things quite agreeable and enjoy what they are doing.

For the Christian, the primary accountability is to God. God demands the best of us. For the Christian who is mature

in faith and is ever searching the Word for new direction and understanding there should be no compromise. Only the best that is in us is acceptable to God. It isn't easy and in some situations seems almost impossible.

Know God's promises and claim them each day. If what we do is acceptable to God, though men hate us for it, the Lord will see us through even the most trying of situations.

Another thought for the Christian workman — "If God be for us, who can be against us?" That means, who can really defeat us? Live in this kind of expectancy and you'll see that it works. God is real!

—H. N. Auler Jr.